

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 5799

STATE PASS TREASURY

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, DA, ECON, PINT
SUBJECT: LIBERAL LEADER'S VIEWS ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 5764 (NOTAL)

1. DURING AMB MANSHEL'S INITIAL CALL ON DENMARK'S
NEW FOREIGN MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY,
HENNING CHRISTOPHERSE, THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE
NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROSPECTS AND ECONOMIC POLICY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO AMB MANANSHEL'S STATED IMPESSION
THAT CHRISTOPHERSEN WOULD BE DEVOTING MUCH OF HIS
ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC MATTERS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER
STATED THAT THAT WAS TRUE. IN THIS REGARD HE NOTED HIS
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, PARTLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AND
THE ATTENTION THAT ECONOMIC ISSUES DEMAND IN THE EC
AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY CONTEXTS. HE AGREED WITH THE
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AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION THAT DENMARK WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
LOOK TO THE STRONGER EC COUNTRIES, NOTABLY WEST
GERMANY, TO STIMULATE GROWTH. DENMARK, CHRISTOPHERSEN
SAID, IS TRYING TO PURSUE A POLICY THAT WILL RELIEVE
ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT, AN OBJECTIVE URGED
ON IT BY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.

3. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING, THE FOREIGN
MINISTER CATALOGUED DANISH ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES
AND CITED THEM AS THE BASIC FORCE THAT HAS BROUGHT
THE LIBERALS, HIS PARTY, AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
INTO A COALITION GOVT. HE EXPECTS THIS
GOVT TO WEATHER THE CURRENT BUFFETING IT IS
TAKING AS IT SEEKS TO GET THE INITIAL PART
(COPENHAGEN 5698) OF ITS ECONOMIC PROGRAM THROUGH
AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. THE
FONMIN ATTRIBUTES THIS TURBULANCE TO A JOCKEYING
FOR POSITION BY DENMARK'S MANY PARTIES AS THEY
SEEK "TO ESTABLISH A PROFILE WITH THE
ELECTORATE". HE CONFESSED THAT LABOR UNION ANTIA
PATHY TO THE COALITION, ALTHOUGH ANTICIPATED, HAD
BEEN SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN EXPECTED. HE BELIEVED
THAT THE LABOR UNIONS PERCEIVED THE ADVANTAGES TO
BE BE GAINED FROM A STABLE COALITION GOVERNMENTS'S
TACKLING OF DENMARK'S PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
AND THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.
HE ALSO EXPECTED LABOR UNION REASONABLENESS IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW GENERAL LABOR CONTRACT THAT
BEGIN IN NOVEMBER. CHRISTOPHERSEN SAID THAT THIS
WAS A TIME FOR THE COALITION MEMBERS TO "STEEL THEIR
NERVES" AND NOT BE DIVERTED BY TRANSITORY
REACTIONS.
MANSHEL
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